

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DPW-01 EUR-25 IO-12 OMB-01 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 /139 W

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R 260810 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9187

USDEL FRANCE

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4953

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREQ

MR 1, MARCH 26, 1973

FOL TEL FROM DANANG SENT ACTION SAIGON DATED MARCH 26, 1973 RPTD
FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 278

1. MILITARY SITUATION:

THERE WERE 33 INCIDENTS REPORTED THROUGH ARVN CHANNELS
MARCH 25, 28 OF WHICH WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE. 1 ST DIV AO
WAS MOST ACTIVE, RECEIVING 19 ABFS FOR TOTAL OF 476 ROUNDS.
CASUALTIES REPORTED: GVN 10 KIA/ MIA, 38 WIA ; COMMUNIST
14 KIA. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRES REMAINED ROUGHLY
COMPARABLE TO LEVEL OF RECENT DAYS, WITH TOTAL OF 2100
ROUNDS FIRED IN SUPPORT ROLE.

2. ICCS HOSTED BY QUANG TRI PROVINCE CHIEF:

THE QUANG TRI PROVINCE CHIEF, COLONEL VIET, HOSTED THE
ICCS/ JMC AT A DINNER IN HUE ON MARCH 24. THE HUE AREA
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TEAM DIRECTOR WHO ATTENDED DESCRIBED IT AS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS. COLONEL VIET, WHO HAS IMPRESSED AMERICAN OBSERVERS WITH HIS ENERGY AND ASTUTENESS, ACTED AS MASTER OF CEREMONIES AS WELL AS HOST. THROUGH HIS WARM PERSONAL CHARM, COLONEL VIET HAD EVEN THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS IN A RELAXED AND CONVIVIAL MOOD.

3. PRISONER RELEASES:

A. TWO PRISONER RELEASES WERE EFFECTED MARCH 25 IN QUANG HGAI AND QUANG TIN PROVINCES. 50 ARVN WERE RELEASED IN QUANG TIN; 199 ARVN AND 1 ROK WERE RELEASED IN QUANG NGAI. BOTH RELEASES WENT SMOOTHLY WITH ONE EXCEPTION. AT ABOUT 1315 HOURS, A VNAF CHINOOK HELICOPTER WAS HIT AT 700

IN THE VICINITY OF THE YOANG NGAI RELEASE BY AT LEAST ONE M-16 ROUND, WHICH SERIOUSLY WOUNDED A VNAF CREW MEMBER.

B. THE SENOIR VIETNAMESE JMC MEMBER PRESENT IMMEDIATELY LOGED A WRITTEN PROTEST WITH THE ICCS OBSERVER TEAM, WHICH SOMEWHAT RELUCTANTLY OBSERVED THE AIRCRAFT NOTING THE BULLET HIT, TALKED TO THE PILOT, OBSERVED THE UNCONSCIOUS CREW MEMBER IN THE HOSPITAL, AND TALKED TO THE OPERATING SURGEON, WHO SHOWED THEM THE M-16 ROUND. WHEREUPON THE HUNGARIAN, NOTING THE ROUND WAS AMERICAN, REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE WOUND WAS NECESSARILY CAUSED BY PRG/ DRV ACTION. THE AMERICAN JMC REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT NOTES THAT THE GVN/ JMC REPRESENTATIVE INTENDS TO PURSUE PROTEST BUT FEELS THAT ON THE BASIS OF THE HUNGARIAN'S STATEMENTS, THEY AND PROBABLY THE POLES WILL REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT AN INCIDENT OCCURRED.

4. PRESS INTERVIEW WITH BAO DAI'S MOTHER:

A CORRESPONDENT FROM THE WALL STREET JOURNAL INTERVIEWED BAO DAI'S MOTHER AT HER HOME IN HUE ON MARCH 22. ACCORDING TO THE CORRESPONDENT, SHE WAS NON-COMMITTAL ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF BAO DAI'S RETURN TO LEAD A "THIRD FORCE," CLAIMING SHE HAD NO CONTACT WITH HIM BUT SAYING THAT EVERY MOTHER HOPES FOR HER SON TO COME HOME.

5. ECONOMIC:

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THE HUE-DANANG RAILWAY IS SCHEDULED TO REOPEN SERVICE ON

APRIL 1. TWO TRIPS WILL ORIGINATE IN BOTH CITIES ON
A DAILY BASIS.

6. QUANG TRI RESETTLEMENT:

DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF RETURN- TO- VILLAGE OPERATIONS
IN HAI LANG DISTRICT OF QUANG TRI PROVINCE, 1100 FAMILIES
TOTALLING 6200 PERSONS WERE RESETTLED IN AREAS ALONG THE
PHONG DINH BORDER(THUA THIEN PROVINCE) WHICH HAVE BEEN DESERTED
SINCE MAY 1972. THE FIRST PHASE OF THIS RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM IS
SCHEDULED TO LAST ONE MONTH AND INVOLVES APPROX 22,000
PERSONS.

BROWN

UNQUOTE

BUNKER

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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